

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 MMO-01 A-01 EB-08

IGA-02 COME-00 /044 W

-----010210 241132Z /10

R 241020Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6982

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA, UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, ECRP, CY

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - UNDP: EVALUATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFS: (A) STATE A-2507; (B) STATE 299705

1. BACKGROUND: EMBASSY CONTACT WITH THE UNDP HAS BEEN MINIMAL SINCE EVENTS OF 1974. UNDP HAS CONCENTRATED ON FINISHING PROJECTS LOCATED IN SOUTHERN PART OF ISLAND BEGUN PRIOR TO 1974. UNDP IS NOT GEARED TO COMPLEMENT UNHCR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION AS SEPARATE ENTITY AND CONTRIBUTES MINIMAL SUPPORT TO GOC ECONOMIC REACTIVATION PROGRAM.

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2. EVEN THOUGH POLITICAL SITUATION IN CYPRUS HAS STABILIZED OVER LAST TWO YEARS, UNDP CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY IN BECOMING ACTIVE PARTNER IN PLANNING AND PRE-INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE. BASIC DIFFICULTIES ARE:

A. UNDP IS REQUIRED BY AGREEMENT WITH GOC TO COORDINATE AND PLAND ALL ITS ACTIVITIES WITH GOC PLANNING

BUREAU. THIS RESTRICTS UNDP OPERATIONS TO SOUTHERN, GREEK CYPRIOT AREA OF ISLAND, THEREBY EXCLUDING TURKISH CYPRIOT-CONTROLLED NORTHERN AREA. AS RESULT, UNDP CANNOT ACT AS CATALYST IN DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED PROJECTS REQUIRING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THIS HAS CREATED EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND OFTEN SENSITIVE SITUATION AS TURKISH CYPRIOT NEEDS FAR EXCEED THOSE OF GREEK CYPRIOTS. IT ALSO ADDS TO GROWING ECONOMIC DISPARITY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

B. GOC ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO STRESS OVERALL ECONOMIC REACTIVATION AND DISPLACED PERSONS REHABILITATION PROGRAMS WHICH ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH LOCAL UNDP MANDATE. GOC IMPLEMENTS THESE PROGRAMS PRIMARILY WITH UNHCR AND ICRC ASSISTANCE.

C. CYPRUS IS NOT AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY OF THE TYPE IN WHICH UNDP NORMALLY OPERATES. GOC HAS EXPERTISE TO PERFORM MOST FUNCTIONS THAT UNDP TRADITIONALLY ASSUMES. UNDP STAFF REALIZES THIS AND CONFIDES IN PRIVATE THAT THEIR MISSION IN CYPRUS IS NOT CRITICALLY NECESSARY.

3. CERP COMMENTS:

EMBASSY VIEWS REGARDING REF A TOPICS (A) THROUGH (I) ARE KEYED BY PARAGRAPHS:

PARA (A): FROM EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW OVERALL IMPORTANCE OF UNDP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS IS MINIMAL. APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXTERNAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNDP IS HALF OF ONE PERCENT. GOC BUDGET WAS IN SURPLUS IN 1976 AND 1977 AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES EXCEED 8 MONTHS' IMPORTS. UNHCR CONTINUES TO PLAY THE MAJOR ROLE IN ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES, PROVIDING APPROXIMATELY 25 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR PROJECTS IN HOUSING, HEALTH AND EDUCATION. GOC FUNDS SUPPLEMENT UNHCR EXPENDITURES IN THESE AREAS.

PARA (B): AS STATED ABOVE, UNDP CONTINUES TO WORK TOWARD COMPLETION OF PRE-WAR PROJECTS USING ALLOTTED FUNDS FOR PERSONNEL AND OVERHEAD COSTS (\$700,000). EMBASSY DOES NOT FORESEE ANY SUBSTANTIAL UNDP INVOLVEMENT IN FUTURE PROJECTS.

PARA (C): UNDP PROVIDES ADEQUATE PROJECT REVIEWS AND REPORTS. INFORMATION IS RELIABLE AND TIMELY.

PARA (D): EMBASSY STAFF MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES UNDP AND HAS REVIEWED CUMULATIVE DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO ONGOING PROGRAMS.

PARA (E): AS FAR AS CAN BE ASCERTAINED, NEW UNDP PROGRAM FOR 1977-81 IS LIMITED IN SCOPE AND BUDGETING TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED ADVISORS REQUESTED BY THE GOC. IT APPEARS TO EMBASSY THAT AS PRE-WAR PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED UNDP SHOULD BE PHASING OUT OF CYPRUS. IN

LIGHT OF SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND HIGHLY CAPABLE
GOC BUREAUCRACY EMBASSY FEELS PHASE-OUT IS APPROPRIATE
AND SHOULD BE PLANNED AS CURRENT PROJECTS COME TO AN END OVER
THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF.

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PARA (F): RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE COORDINATES ALL UN
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXCEPT THAT OF UNHCR, WHICH OPERATES
INDEPENDENTLY. UNDP AND IBRD UNDERTAKINGS APPEAR TO BE
COORDINATED. UNDP/GOC RELATIONSHIP IS MORE SOCIAL THAN
WORKING. IT APPEARS THAT GOC DOES NOT REGARD RES/REP
ROLE AS CRUCIAL TO GOC ECONOMIC REACTIVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

PARA (G): REACTIVATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS ARE TOTALLY COORDINATED AND FUNDED THROUGH THE
UNCHR WHICH BY DECREE OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN
APPOINTED AS COORDINATOR FOR REACTIVATION AND REFUGEE
ASSISTANCE IN CYPRUS. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BOTH MULTI-
AND BILATERAL, IS CONTROLLED AND COORDINATED BY INDIVIDUAL
MINISTRIES. AS SUCH, UNDP RES/REP APPEARS TO BE APPROACHED
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ONLY WHEN INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES CANNOT FILL TECHNICAL ADVISORY POSITIONS FROM WITHIN THEIR OWN RANKS.

PARA (H): UNDP PRESENTLY HAS TWO WOMEN EXPERTS ON ITS STAFF. SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO WOMEN OVER PAST YEAR ALTHOUGH EXACT NUMBER IS NOT KNOWN. EMBASSY CANNOT MAKE COMPREHENSIVE JUDGMENT WITH REGARD TO LOCAL UNDP APPROACH TO "WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT," BUT IT APPEARS TO EXERT LITTLE INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA.

PARA (I): IT APPEARS THAT CYPRUS IS COOPERATING AND COORDINATING WITH THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THERE IS RELUCTANCE ON PART OF GOC TO GRADUATE FROM UNDP SYSTEM OR TO BECOME NET CONTRIBUTOR. GOC WISHES MAINTAIN ITS RECIPIENT STATUS WITH UNDP AND OTHER AGENCIES SO THAT "FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" AND LOW INTEREST LOANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE. GOC ATTITUDE TUOWARD PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS IS OF HIGHEST STANDARD. GOC HAS HIGH DEGREE OF ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGERIAL AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND SHOULD SOON ASSUME STATUS OF FULLY INDEPENDENT AND SELF-SUSTAINING DEVELOPED ECONOMY.
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